

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 099039
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 MCE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 /091 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:LPFEIFLE:DS
APPROVED BY ARA:TTODMAN
ARA/CEN:WMATTHEWS
ARA:JBUSHNELL
ARA:SSHELTON
HA:OJONES (SUBSTANCE)
PM:RTITUS (SUBSTANCE)
ACDA:LWATSON (SUBSTANCE)
-----070802 190356Z /73
R 181914Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 099039

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, GT

SUBJECT: GUATEMALAN REQUEST FOR F5E'S

1. THE SECRETARY HAS DECIDED AGAINST SELLING F5E'S TO GUATEMALA. PLEASE INFORM THE GOG OF THE DECISION IN THE MANNER YOU BELIEVE MOST APPROPRIATE.
2. IN INFORMING THE GOG YOU MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. IT IS US POLICY NOT TO BE THE FIRST TO
INTRODUCE INTO A REGION AN ADVANCED
WEAPONS SYSTEM WHICH CREATES A NEW OR
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SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER COMBAT CAPABILITY.
THE F5E WOULD BE THE FIRST TRULY SUPER-
SONIC AIRPLANE IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

B. PRESIDENT CARTER IS COMMITTED TO REDUCING
ARMS TRANSFERS WORLDWIDE. AS PART OF THIS
POLICY THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ESTABLISHED A

GLOBAL CEILING ON THE AMOUNT OF ARMS THE US
WILL SELL IN A GIVEN YEAR. THE SALE OF F5E'S
WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER THIS CEILING.

C. WE REGRET WE DID NOT RESPOND TO THE REQUEST
SOONER. THE DELAY WAS CAUSED BY AN EFFORT TO
WEIGH CAREFULLY ALL THE FACTORS AND POLICIES
WHICH GOVERN OUR ARMS TRANSFER POLICY.

D. WE HOPE OUR INABILITY TO SELL F5E'S WILL NOT
IN ANY WAY AFFECT THE CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELA-
TIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES WHICH WE VALUE
HIGHLY.

E. WE DO NOT PLAN TO ANNOUNCE THIS DECISION PUBLICLY
BUT HAVE NO OBJECTIONS IF THE GOG WISHES TO. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 18 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: MASS, GT, US
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